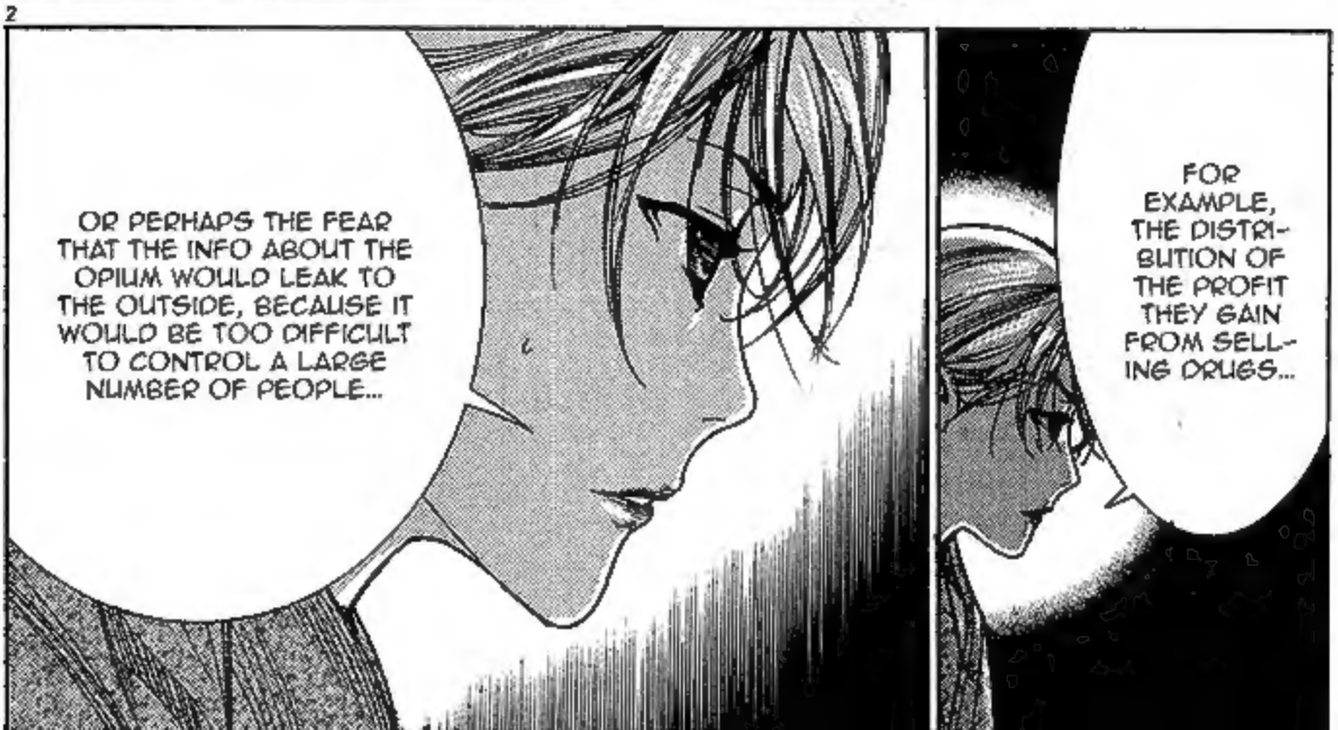
REDUCING THE NUMBER
OF MOUTHS TO FEED

KILLING OFF OLDER PEOPLE,
WAS PROBABLY A CUSTOM INVENTED IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MOUTHS TO FEED IN POORER VILLAGES.
AND IT'S STILL CONTINUING, EVEN THOUGH THEY GET ENOUGH PROVISIONS BY GROWING POPPY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF KEEPING SUCH AN ODD CUSTOM!?


FOR EXAMPLE, THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROFIT THEY GAIN FROM SELLING DRUGS...
OR PERHAPS THE FEAR THAT THE INFO ABOUT THE OPIUM WOULD LEAK TO THE OUTSIDE, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE TOO DIFFICULT TO CONTROL A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE...

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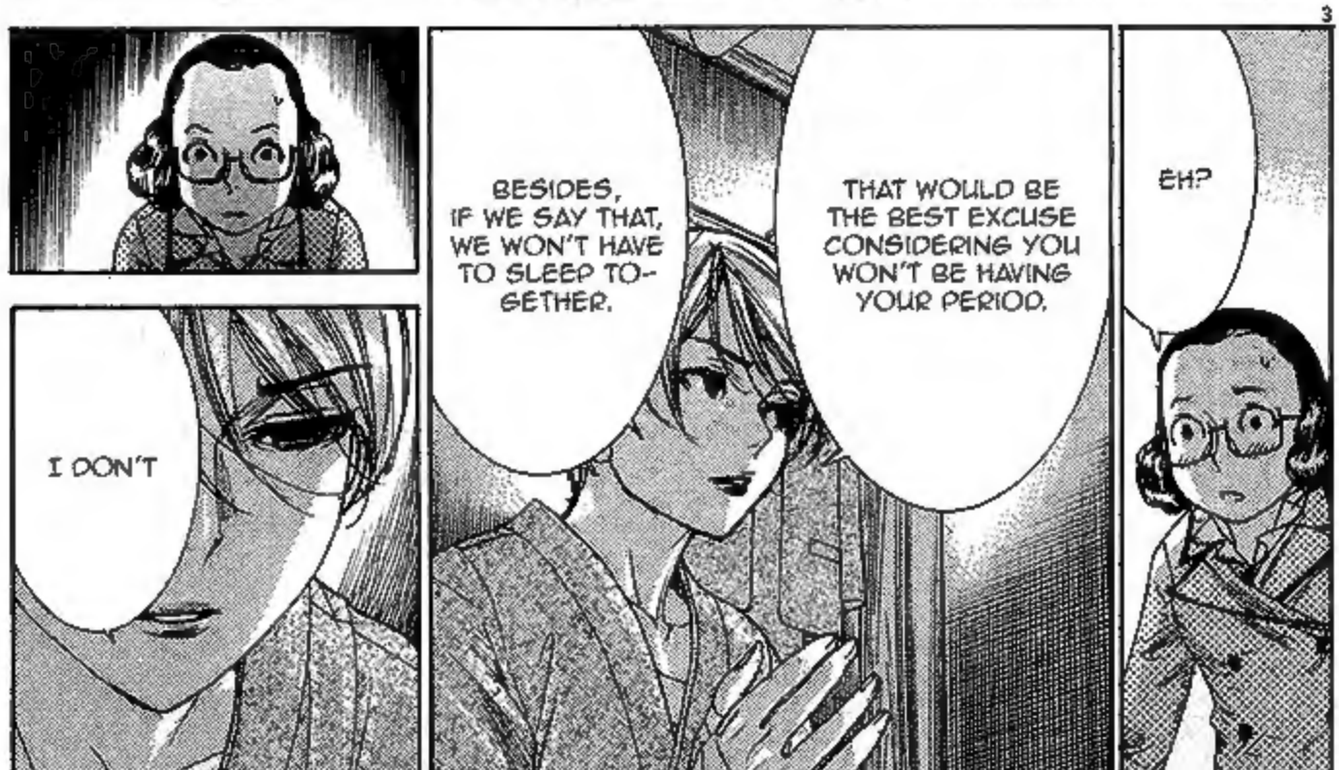
SO IF 10 PEOPLE WERE TO BE BORN, 10 PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TO BE KILLED!? THEN THE VILLAGE WOULD BE FULL OF KIDS.
IN THAT CASE THEY WOULD PROBABLY REGULATE THE NUMBER OF KIDS. EITHER WAY, THEY WOULD TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES.
SO THEY EITHER LET THEM HAVE A BABY, OR THEY MADE THEM HAVE AN ABORTION,
DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
JUST WHAT DO THEY THINK WOMEN ARE...

BY THE WAY,
WHEN IN FRONT OF THE VILLAGERS, PRETEND THAT YOU'RE PREGNANT.


EH?
THAT WOULD BE THE BEST EXCUSE CONSIDERING YOU WON'T BE HAVING YOUR PERIOD.
BESIDES, IF WE SAY THAT, WE WON'T HAVE TO SLEEP TOGETHER.
I DON'T

WANT TO HAVE SEX WITH YOU. NOT EVEN IN AN EMERGENCY.
THAT'S RIGHT.
SINCE WE'RE BOTH GUYS AND ALL...
WE HAVE TO ESCAPE BEFORE THEY FIND OUT WE'RE LYING.
WE CAN'T STAY HERE.

NEVER BE MORE THAN FRIENDS...
WILL WE REALLY,
I KNOW HE'S NOT SAYING THIS BECAUSE HIS PARTNER WOULD BE ME IN PARTICULAR, BUT...
I UNDER-STAND THAT
YOU WOULD NEVER TAKE SOMEONE LIKE ME INTO CONSIDER-ATION, BUT STILL...
EVEN IF YOUR HEART WERE ONE OF A WOMAN,
Y...YOU...

DON'T YOU WANT TO BEAR A CHILD?
EH?
.....
WELL IT'S NOT AS IF I'M A HOMO OR ANYTHING.
BUT EVEN SO, WEARING WOMEN'S CLOTHING
MAKES ME FEEL WEIRD...

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BEING PRO-TECTED,
BEING IMPORT-ANT TO SOMEONE,
WHEN GUYS LOOK AT ME,
I GET FRIGHT-ENED,
IT MAKES ME FEEL SICK, BUT....
AND ALSO THE JOY OF BEARING A CHILD...I SORTA FEEL LIKE I UN-DERSTAND THAT.
YOU FEEL LIKE THAT,
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A GUY?
...YEAH.
AND MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD?
IT ALSO MAKES YOUR HEART BEAT FASTER,
SINCE YOU'RE A GUY,
DON'T YOU FIND THOSE FEELINGS PAINFUL?
WELL,
IT'S EMBAR-RASSING, BUT IT'S NOT PAIN-FUL.
ISN'T IT CONTRA-DICTING?
...WELL IN THE END, I'M STILL A GUY.

REALLY?

IS THAT SO, WELL THEN JUST YOU.

MY WIFE IS PREG-NANT...

HERE'S SOME OPIUM, GO AHEAD AND SMOKE.

WE HAVE TO MAKE YOU GROW FOND OF THIS VILLAGE.

THEY PLAN ON MAKING HIM ADDICTED SO HE WON'T LEAVE...

WITH JUST ONE SMOKE,
ALL MY FEARS AND TROUBLES GO AWAY.

SAY,
AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF DYING?

IT MAKES YOU THROW UP AT FIRST, BUT...
YOU SEEM TO BE USED TO IT, I SEE YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE.

DON'T YOU THINK HE MIGHT'VE LEFT THE VILLAGE? IN ORDER TO SAVE YOU!?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR A WHILE,
BUT THEN MANJI WOULD BE SAD!!
I LOST MY WILL TO LIVE LAST SUMMER,
WHEN MY PARTNER DIED.
THAT KID WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING.
WE AREN'T RELATED BY BLOOD, BUT WE'RE STILL FAMILY.
I RAISED HIM AFTER HIS PARENTS PASSED AWAY.
IT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME FOR ME TO GO AS WELL.

I HAVE BUT ONE REGRET.
.....
IF HE RUNS AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE, I, AS HIS FAMILY MEMBER, WILL GET PUNISHED.
THERE'S NO WAY A SWEET KID SUCH AS HIM WOULD LEAVE....

AND THAT IS, THAT I COULDN'T
GIVE BIRTH TO THAT CHILD
SOMEONE WILL HAVE TO DIE, RIGHT?

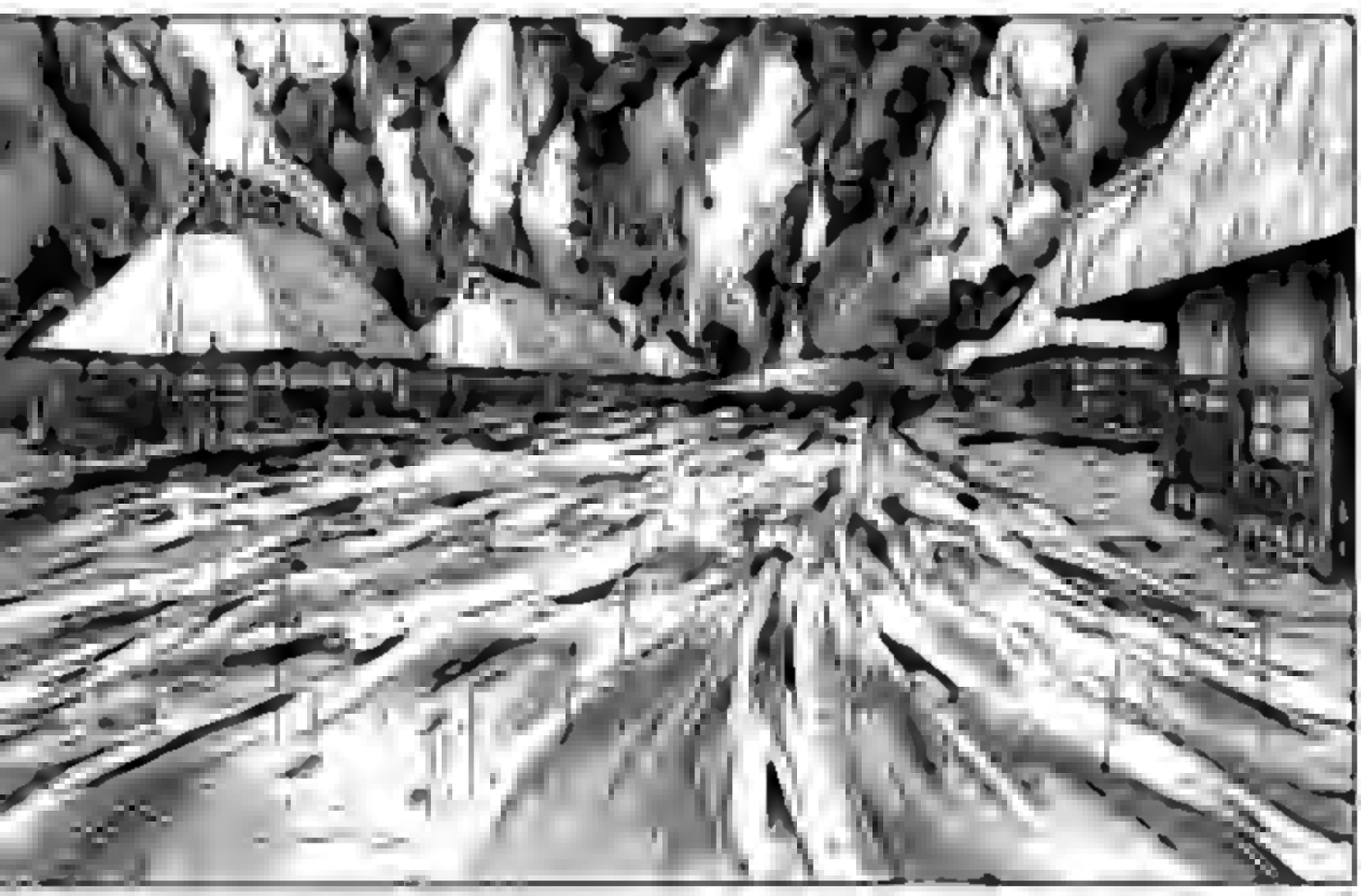
SILENCE!!

ALRIGHT. IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN THINK OF WHAT I'M SAYING AS NON-SENSE.
CHI-LDREN ARE A BLESS-ING!!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO REFUSE!
NON-EVED
WHY CAN'T YOU UNDER-STAND THE VALUE OF BECOMING A MOTHER!?
THERE ARE MANY WOMEN WHO WANT TO HAVE A CHILD BUT CAN'T.

ONCE YOU GIVE BIRTH TO A CHILD,

...YOU'RE RIGHT.
GUYS WILL NEVER BE
MUKU
I'M FINE
ARE YOU ALRIGHT MIZUKI-SAN?
A HA-HA-HA-HA

AND WITH WHOM HAVE YOU SMOKED IT,
TETSUO?



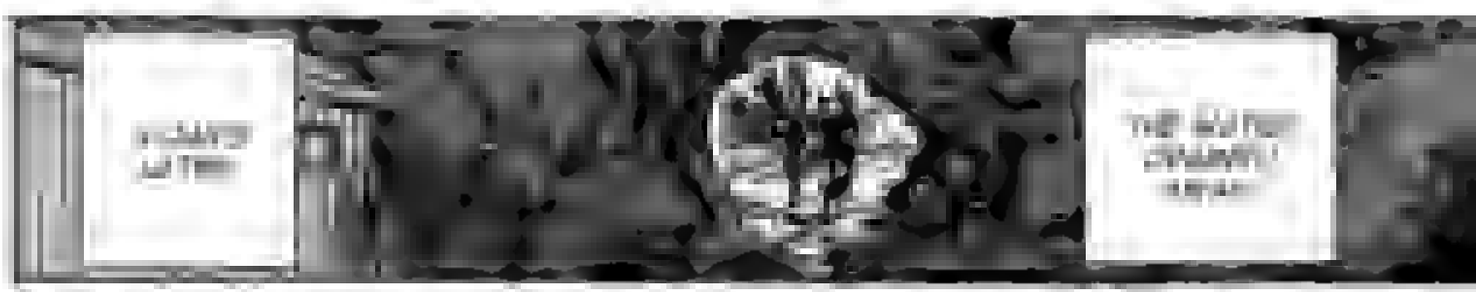
SOMETHING SEEMS OFF.
A POPPY FLOWER?
THE WATER IS FLOWING UNDER THE FLOOR

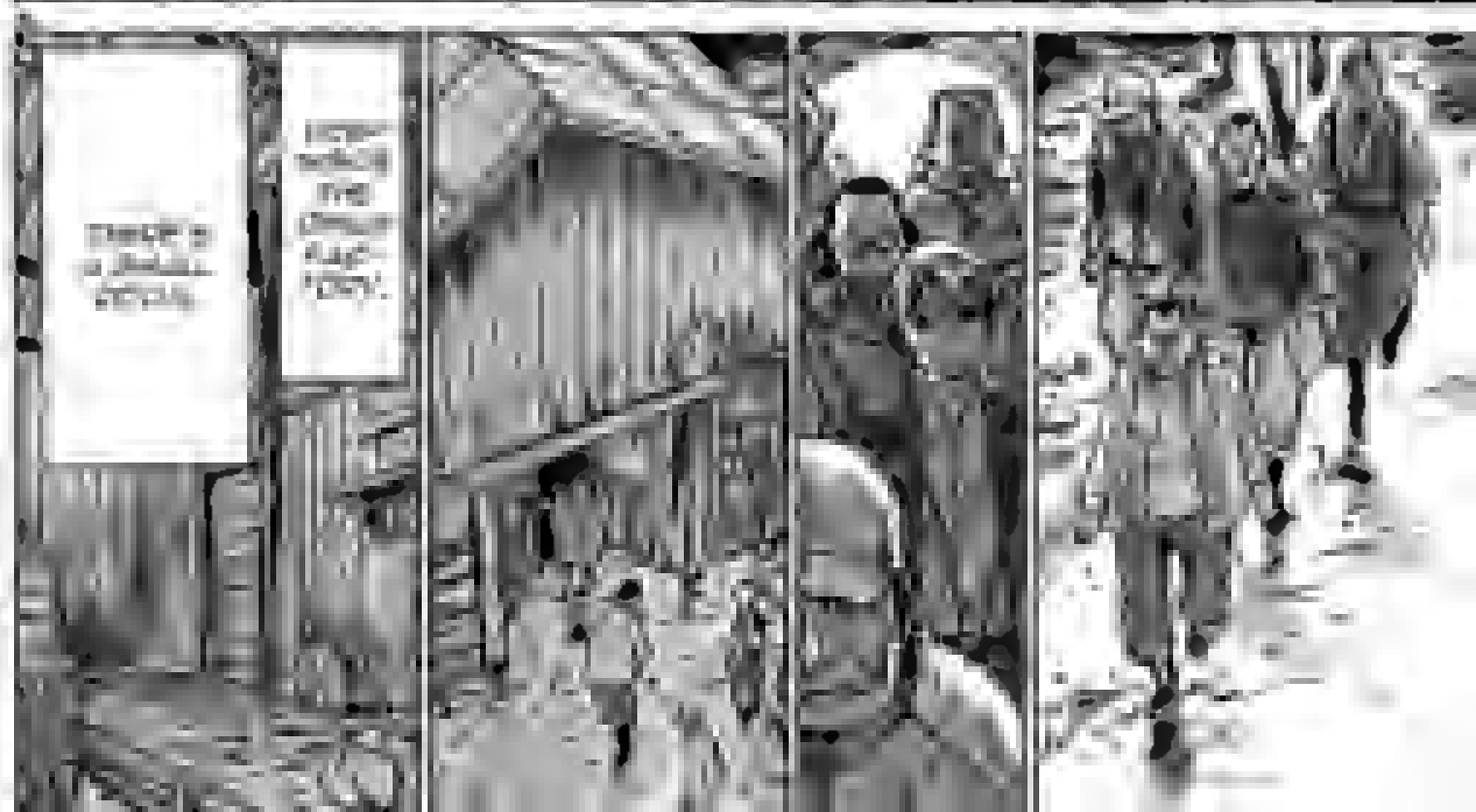
SOMEONE OPENED THE FLOOD GATE.
WHAT HAPPENED?
THE FLOOD GATE?
IT WAS MANJI !!
IN ORDER TO HIDE THE POPPY PLANTATION IF NECESSARY
WE BUILT A FLOOD GATE JUST IN CASE.

THEN THERE WILL BE NO REASON TO OBEY THE RULES ANYMORE!!
IF THE POPPY PLANTATION GETS DESTROYED, THE VILLAGERS WILL HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE
I SEE
.....

LIVELY SCANS

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WAIT..
THAT WILL PROBABLY TAKE
2 TO 3 DAYS
.....
WE'LL NEED TO WAIT FOR THE RAIN TO LET UP AND THE WATER TO DRAIN AWAY.
WE CAN'T GET ANY CLOSER TO THE PLANTATION.





IT'S A ROOM WHERE THEY
HEAVILY INTOXICATED PEOPLE UNTIL THEY SOBERED UP
IT MIGHT BE
FROM THE INSIDE!!
SLAM
PUSH!!
SLAM

WE SAW MARK LYING ON THE FLOOR
SO HE DECIDED TO KILL HIMSELF BEFORE THAT WOULD HAPPEN
HE THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD GET PUNISHED BY THE VILLAGERS EITHER WAY,
EVERYONE
THOUGHT AT THAT TIME.
THAT'S WHAT

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LORD KIYO-MORI IS LAUGH-ING!!
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN!?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT? THIS IS OBVIOUSLY MANJI'S DOING
HE WANTED TO SCARE US!!
HERE'S THE KEY FOR THE FLOOD GATE
I KNEW IT! MANJI WAS THE ONE WHO OPENED THE GATE!!

CHAPTER 32 - MANJI'S SUICIDE!

THE DOOR COULDN'T BE OPENED FROM THE OUTSIDE,
BECAUSE IT WAS CLOSED SHUT FROM THE INSIDE.
4
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MURDER.
THIS IDIOT.
HE LEFT THIS WORLD BEFORE ME.

COME HELP US.
HEY.
YOU PLAN ON REPLANTING THE POPPY FLOWERS?
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND THAT?
MANJI-KUN WANTED FOR THIS TO STOP, THAT'S WHY HE FLOODED THE POPPY FIELD.
THIS IS THE ONLY THING THAT WILL PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE.
THIS VILLAGE WON'T CHANGE.
IN VAIN!?
WAS MAJI-KUN'S DEATH
SHUT UP!
BUT LORD KIYO-MORI'S CURSE....
LUCKY SCANS
www.luckyscans.com

HAVE SUS-
PECTED
HER...?
COULD IT
BE HE
USED THE
ROOM...
HIS DEATH
SAVED HIS
NO

MANJI-KUN NAILED THE BOARD ON THE DOOR SO THAT IT COULDN'T BE OPENED, RIGHT?
I ONLY NOTICED THIS LATER, BUT...
.....
THE NAILS?
YEAH.
...HOWEVER, THERE WAS ONLY A HAMMER IN THE ROOM, THERE WAS NO CROW-BAR.
THERE WERE FRESH SIGNS OF NAILS BEING PULLED OUT OF THE BOARD.
FOR THAT CROWBAR TO GET FLUSHED OUT OF THE ROOM...
THERE WAS NO HOLE BIG ENOUGH
THAT WOULD MEAN THAT SOMEONE TOOK IT.
IF IT DIDN'T GET FLUSHED OUT,

BUT MURDER!
WHICH WOULD MEAN THIS WASN'T A SUICIDE,
BUT
EVIDENCE
EVIDENCE

TETSUO!
ONE SMOKE SHOULD BE FINE
TO ME IT LOOKS LIKE ALL YOU ARE DOING IS PLAYING ONE OF THOSE DETECTIVE GAMES YOU LIKE SO MUCH~
AND YOU WERE GATHERING INFORMATION WHILE I
IF YOU REALLY DON'T INTERESTED THEN IT'S NO WAY WE'LL EVER GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.
YEAH, YEAH
.....

WE'LL MAKE HIM HELP US LEAVE THE VILLAGE
IF WE FIND THE CULPRIT,
WE MIGHT THREATEN HIM INTO HELPING US.
SO THIS IS THE EFFECT OF OPIUM.
10
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DOING THIS BECAUSE OF POOR MAN-JI-KUN, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE MORE CALCULATING THAN I THOUGHT.
WHAT'S THIS..
I'M NOT PLAYING AROUND.
.....
MAJI-KUN WAS A GOOD KID
GETTING OUT OF HERE IS OUR TOP PRIORITY!

THEY'RE RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE.
WILL NEVER FORSIVE WHOEVER MURDERED HIM.
HE WAS A NICE AND CHEERFUL YOUNG BOY WHO JUST GOT INTER-ESTED IN A
THERE WAS NO REASON
IT'S AS IF WE'RE FOLLOWED BY A CURSE FROM THE GHOST TOWER.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WE DO?

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY, YOU'RE NOT TAKING ANOTHER SMOKE
YOU'LL STOP THIS
GRAB
GIVE IT BACK!
IF YOU'LL SMOKE ANY MORE OF THIS,
WHAT ARE YOU RUN-NING AWAY FROM?
TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM SOME-THING?
ARE YOU
NO!
GIVE IT BACK!

THUD

I'LL TELL EVERYONE YOU'RE A WOMAN!!

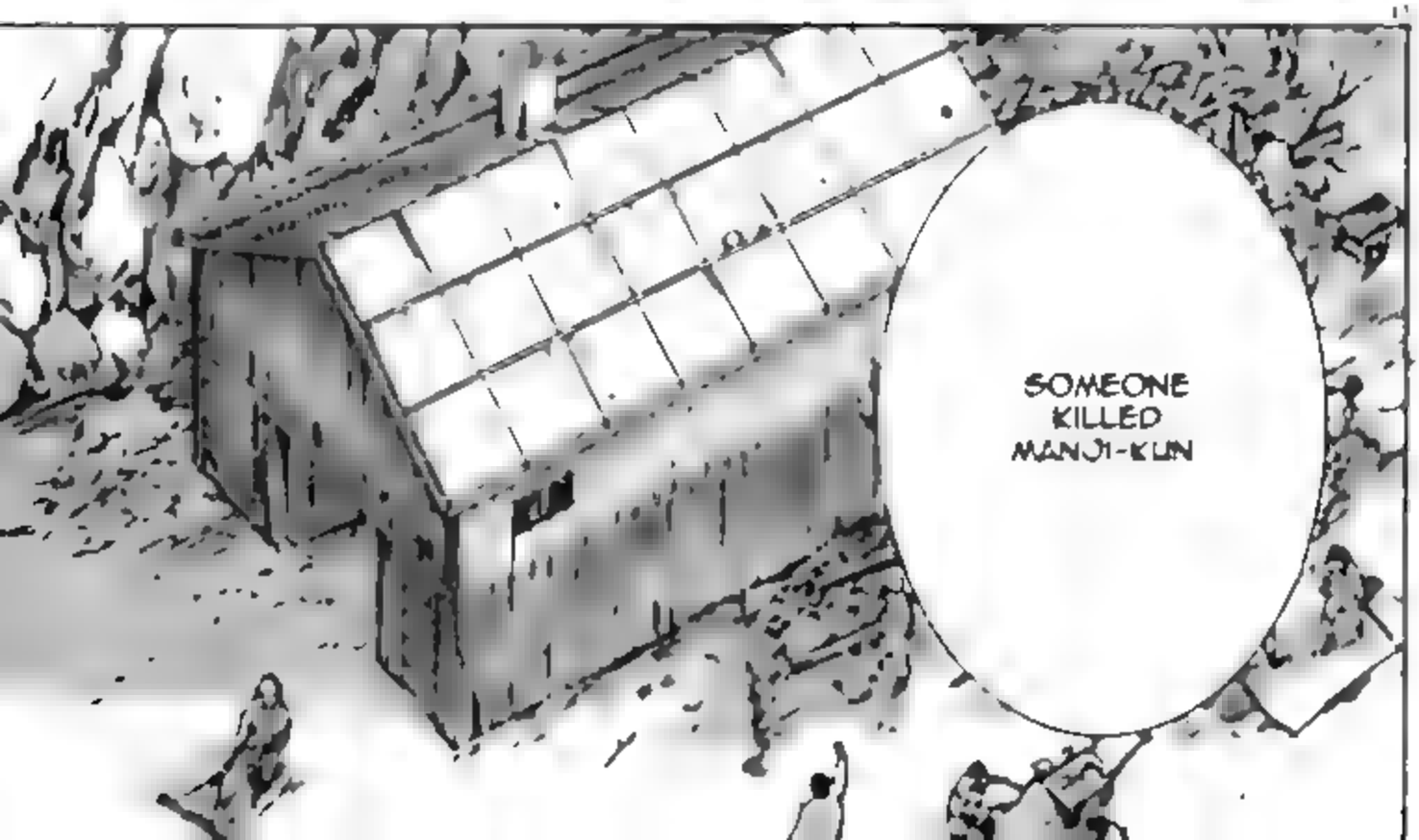
I'M SORRY.
HEH?
WHAT HOW THE HECK IN THE VILLAGE DOC YOU AS AN ANIMAL
I'M LEAVING TOO
HOW EXCEP
A THING DOES DOC YOU'RE A WOMAN THEY'LL MAKE YOU STOP SMOKING CIGARETTES SO THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE A BABY

I WAS THINK-ING,
THAT THE MUR-DERER COULD BE HIS GRAND-MOTHER, KUME.
IF THE CULPRIT WAS HIS OWN GRAND-MOTHER, HE WOULD'VE LET HIS GUARD DOWN.
AND SHE ALSO HAS A MOTIVE
A MOTIVE?
WITH MANJI-KUN GONE, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE DECREASED BY ONE.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA...

I HAP-
PENED TO
OVERHEAR
THIS.
ABOUT
WHAT?
APPARENTLY,
THIS SUMMER,
AFTER HER
HUSBAND DIED,
SHE TRIED
TO COMMIT
SUICIDE.
AND IT
SEEMS LIKE
MANJI-KUN
TRIED HARD
TO STOP
HER
BUT...
WHAT
IF SHE
CHANGED
HER MIND
AND GOT
AFRAID OF
DYING?
I DON'T
THINK SO.

I DON'T THINK SHE'D CHOOSE TO KILL SOMEONE CLOSE TO HER,
ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY GOT ALONG SO WELL.
FAMILY BONDS ARE STRONG.
EVEN IF SHE WERE THE ONE TO KILL HIM,
SHE WOULD'VE DONE IT IN A MORE INDIRECT WAY.
I DON'T THINK SHE'D USE A METHOD WHERE SHE WOULD HAVE TO SEE THE BLOOD.
SHE WOULD'VE SUFFOCATED HIM WITH A PILLOW OR POISONED HIM.
OF COURSE, THERE EXISTS A POSSIBILITY THAT SHE MIGHT'VE LOST CONTROL AND STABBED HIM OUT OF RAGE.
BUT IN THIS CASE, IT WAS A SINGLE, WELL AIMED STAB THAT IMMEDIATELY HIT THE VITAL POINT.
THIS WAS,
A CALCULATED MURDER DONE BY SOMEONE WHO KNEW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE DOING.
EITHER WAY,
IT WASN'T SOMETHING A PARENT WHO WANTS TO PROTECT THEIR CHILD WOULD DO.

PEOPLE'S FEELINGS,
ARE NOTHING LIKE THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE,
YOU READ ABOUT IN YOUR MAGA-
AMANO-KUN
EVEN SO,


SOMEONE KILLED MANJI-KUN

LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE AND START OVER!
THIS IS THE CAGE IN CUBICO
EVERY ONE
ALL THE MEN IN THE VILLAGE GATHERED IN ONE PLACE
THEY

WHY DID HE GO THERE?
SO THE ONLY PERSON IN THE SECRET ROOM AT THAT TIME WAS MAN-JI-KUN.
WAS FOUND IN THE SECRET ROOM NEXT TO THE STATUE OF LORD KIYOMORI.
CHANGED ASYMMETRI-CALLY!!
AND THE STATUE'S FACE WAS,
AS IF IT WERE CURSED...
.....

INSIDE THE SECRET ROOM,
THAT'S FOR SURE...
HOW DID THE ALLIGATORS MANAGE TO GET OUT?
HOW-EVER
WATER
THIS ROOM WAS COMPLETELY FLOODED...
I COULD'VE DIED

AND THE CULPRIT COULD EASILY TILT THE FLOOR.
ONCE KIY-
COULD THE MURDERER HAVE USED THE WATER TO MAKE THE FLOOR RISE UP?
THAT THE FLOOR
NAILED TO THE GROUND?
THE FLOOR IS FIRMLY NAILED TO THE GROUND...
...I WAS
AND THERE WOULD BE NO MEANING IN GETTING RID OF THE CROWBAR.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE COULD'VE ESCAPED AND SWAM IN THAT CURRENT.

AFTER KILLING
JUST HOW DID THE MURDERER GET OUT,
IT'S RARE FOR SOMEONE IN YOUR CONDITION
YOU SHOULDN'T WALK AROUND TOO MUCH,

DID YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN?
KUME-SAN,
THEN THIS PERSON IS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD'VE KILLED HIM.
IT WAS HARD WITH MY BODY, BUT...
HOWEVER, IT WAS AT THE SAME TIME THAT ANOTHER WOMAN JUST GAVE BIRTH TO A CHILD.
I GOT PREGNANT ONCE IN THE PAST.
I WAS FORCED INTO HAVING AN ABORTION.
...THAT'S WHY

THE KID WHO GOT BORN, WAS MANJI

I WISH I'D HAVE GIVEN BOTH OF THEM DRUGS
I MIGHT'VE KILLED HIM.
AND CLAIRE-BEAR WOULD HAVE TO DIE.
THERE WOULD BE ONE TOO MANY SOULS IN THE VILLA.
SHE WILL KILL,
ONE MORE PERSON.
IT ENDS IN THE VILLA.

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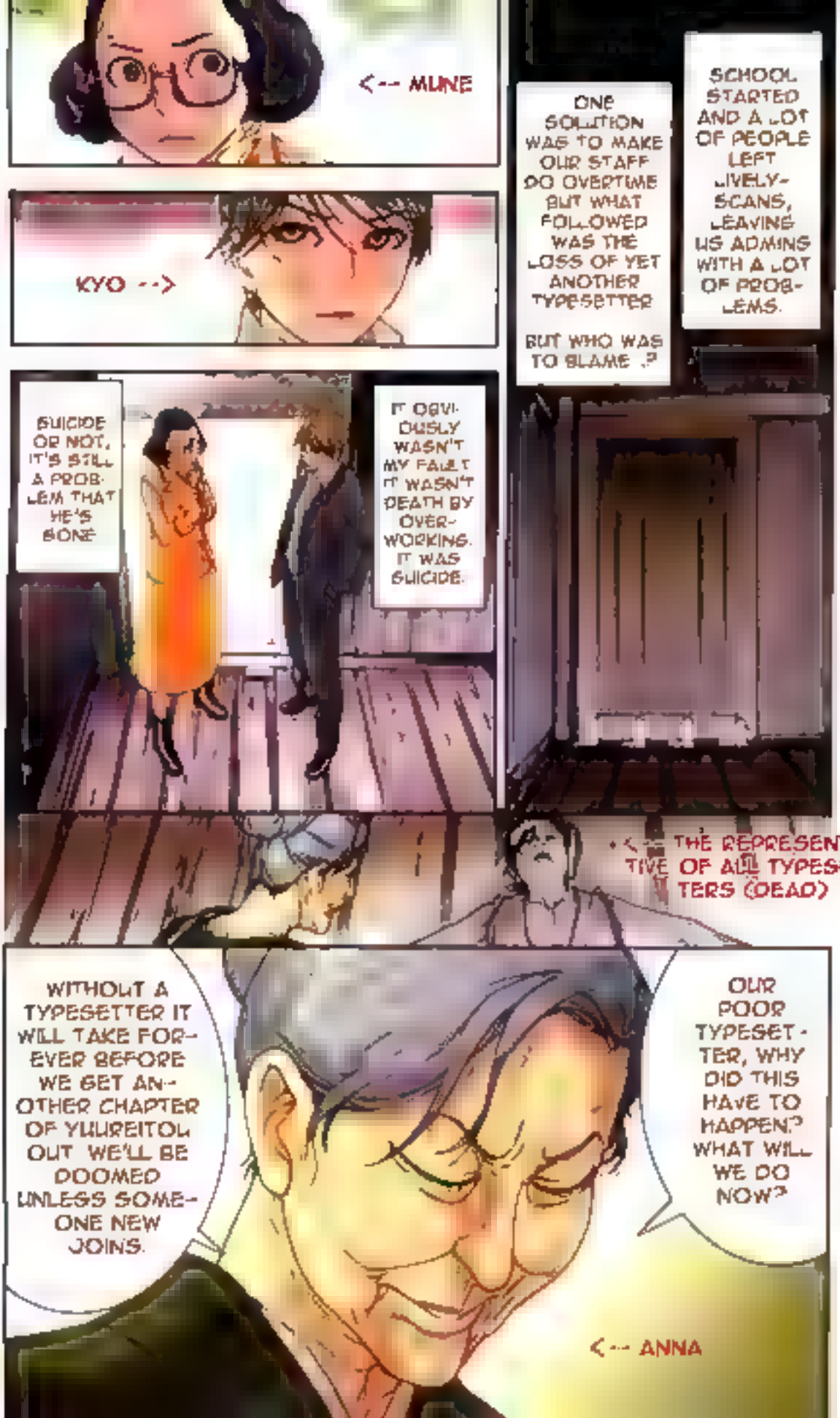
<-- MUNE
KYO -->
SCHOOL STARTED AND A LOT OF PEOPLE LEFT LIVELY-SCANS, LEAVING US ADMINS WITH A LOT OF PROBLEMS.
ONE SOLUTION WAS TO MAKE OUR STAFF DO OVERTIME BUT WHAT FOLLOWED WAS THE LOSS OF YET ANOTHER TYPESETTER
BUT WHO WAS TO BLAME .?
SUICIDE OR NOT, IT'S STILL A PROBLEM THAT HE'S GONE
IT OBVIOUSLY WASN'T MY FAULT IT WASN'T DEATH BY OVER-WORKING. IT WAS SUICIDE.
<-- THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL TYPESETTERS (DEAD)
WITHOUT A TYPESETTER IT WILL TAKE FOREVER BEFORE WE GET ANOTHER CHAPTER OF YUUREITOU OUT WE'LL BE DOOMED UNLESS SOMEONE NEW JOINS.
OUR POOR TYPESETTER, WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN? WHAT WILL WE DO NOW?
<-- ANNA

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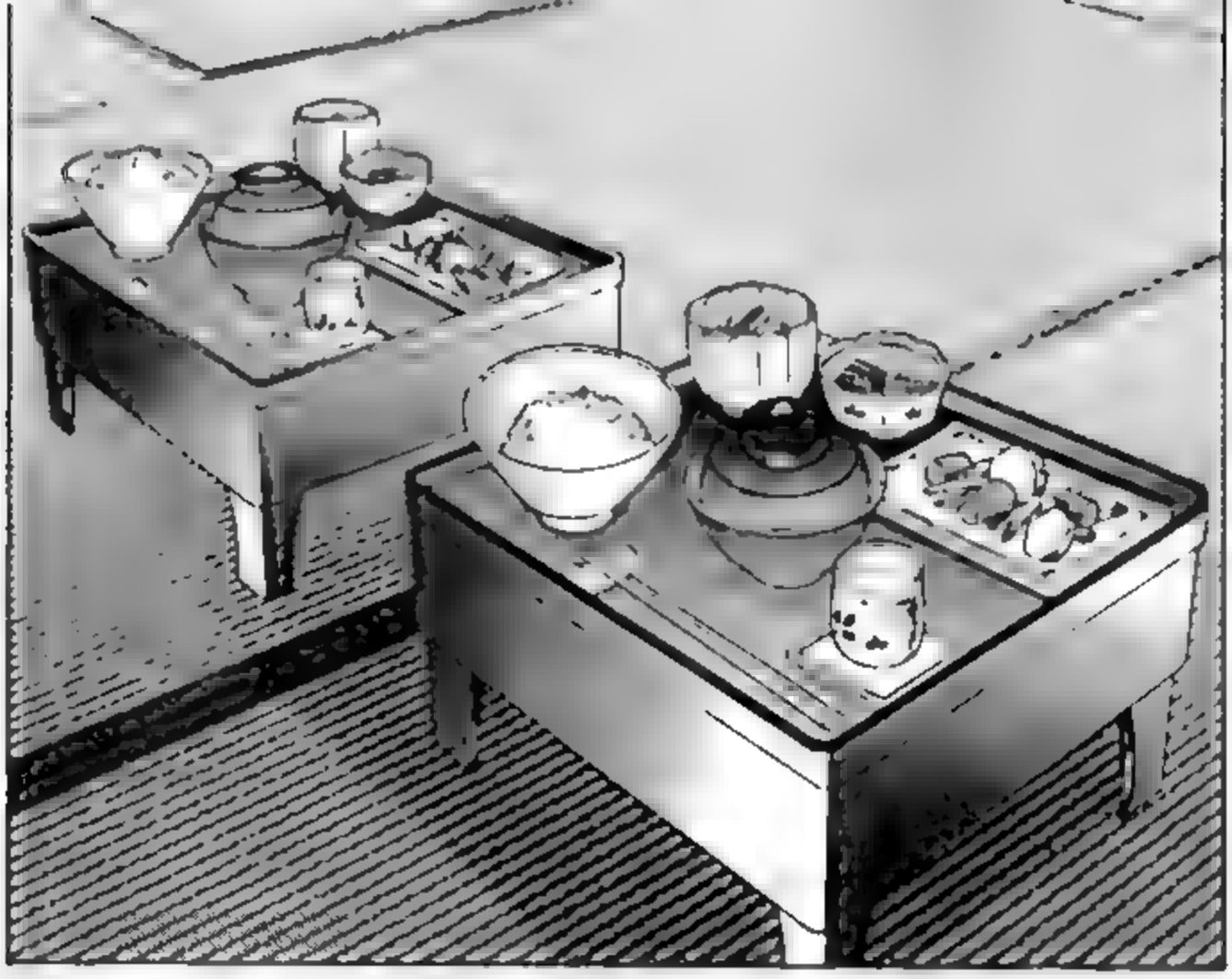
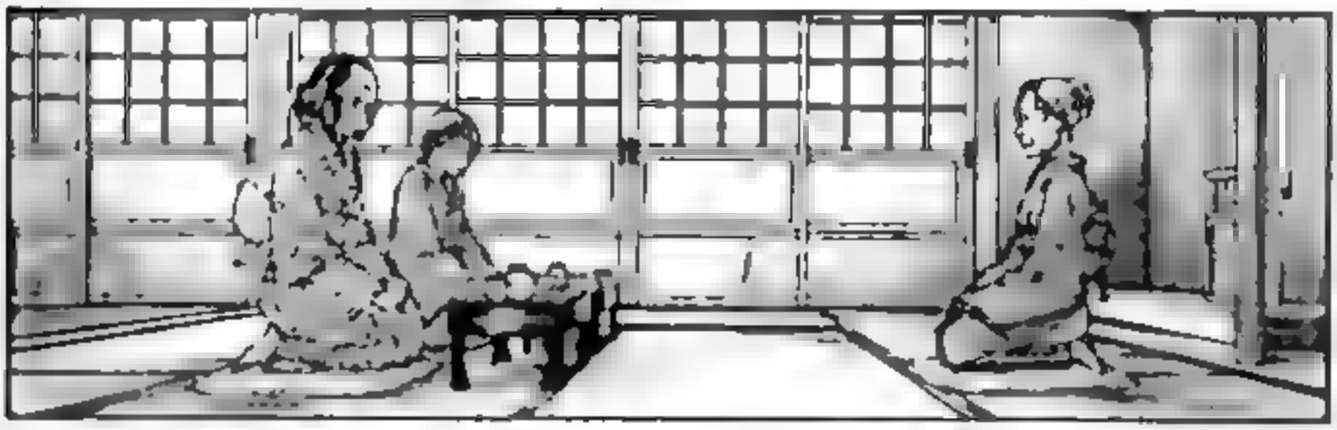
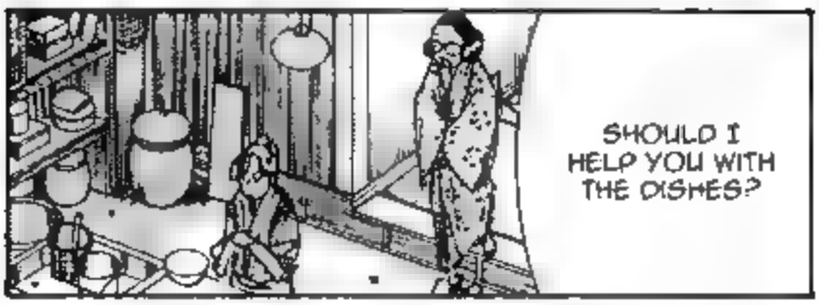
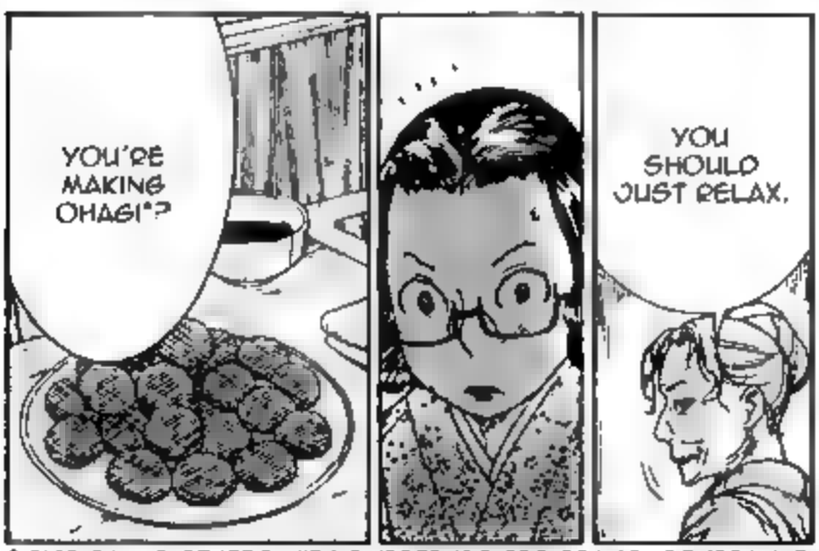




DID YOU FORGET WHAT I SAID EARLIER?
WAIT!! MITSUO-SAN
BE CARE-FUL!
IT MIGHT BE DAN-GEROUS!!
MAKE SURE YOU EAT A LOT
YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM ALL THE WORK

munch
munch
Allo~
AH!?
Allo~
SHE'LL KILL ANOTHER PERSON IN ORDER TO SURVIVE!!
THERE'S NO WAY SHE'LL USE POISON, IT WOULD BE TOO EASY TO NOTICE.
ARE YOU AN IDIOT OR SOMETHING?
SHE USED SUCH AN ELABORATE TRICK TO NOT GET SUSPECTED, SHE WOULDN'T DO ANY-THING TO MAKE HER SUSPICIOUS NOW.
EVEN IF SHE IS A MURDERER, LIKE YOU SAY,





* RICE BALLS COATED WITH SWEETENED RED BEANS, SOYBEAN FLOUR OR SESAME

CHILDREN
SHOULDN'T
EAT TOO
MUCH OF IT

SHE JUST WANTED TO HAVE SOMEONE DIE AND WRITE IT OFF AS AN ACCIDENT
SHE DEFINITELY KNEW THAT
THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME KNOW
EVERYONE EATS IT. IT DOESN'T MEAN THEY'LL DIE BECAUSE OF IT.
AREN'T YOU OVER-THINKING THIS?
WHERE ARE WE?
IF SOMEONE WERE TO DIE, SHE WOULDN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.
EXACTLY!

AND IN ORDER TO APPEASE THE SOULS OF THE DEAD, A STATUE OF KIYOMORI WAS MADE FROM THE SCRAP WOOD OF THE DESTROYED HOUSES.
THE GROUND BECAME LOOSE AND THE VILLAGERS DIDN'T WANT TO APPROACH IT.
ABOUT 50 YEARS AGO, A LANDSLIDE HAPPENED HERE AND SOME HOUSES GOT DESTROYED.
HMM.

I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOME CLUES HERE

HE BROUGHT THEM BACK AFTER SEALING THE DOOR
SINCE HE COULDN'T LEAVE THE TOOLS THERE,
SO THE ONE WHO SEALED THE ROOM FROM THE INSIDE WAS MANJI-KUN HIMSELF
IF IT WAS SEALED, HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN IN NOR OUT.
AFTER SEALING THE DOOR, HUH
THAT'S WHY THE TOOLS ARE HERE
BUT THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED
BUT THAT THE CULPRIT BROUGHT THE HAMMER THERE
SINCE THERE WAS NOTHING THERE BUT THE HAMMER, IT'S POSSIBLE, THAT IT S NOT THAT THE CROWBAR WAS TAKEN FROM THE SCENE.
THEN IT WAS THE WORK OF A WOMAN WHO DIDN'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT CARPENTRY
IF THE CULPRIT BROUGHT THE HAMMER THERE TO MAKE US THINK MANJI-KUN SEALED THE ROOM HIMSELF...

IF WE DO THIS, IT'LL LOOK LIKE THE ROOM GOT SEALED
IT'LL LOOK LIKE A
IT'LL BE FINE!! NO ONE WILL FIGURE OUT THE TRICK, WE WON'T BE BLAMED FOR THIS

THERE IS NO ONE ELSE IN THE VILLAGE TO WHOM HE WOULD TELL ABOUT HIS PLAN.
THEN THE CULPRIT MUST BE HIS GRANDMOTHER
IF THE CULPRIT
MANJI-KUN MADE,
AND SHE DID RAISE HIM AS HER OWN, AFTER ALL
STEPCHILDREN AND STEPPARENTS OFTEN GET INTO FIGHTS
DON'T YOU THINK SAYING THAT SHE MIGHT'VE HATED HIM
INSIDE HER HEART, IS A BIT WEAK FOR MOTIVE?

THAT SOMETHING INSIDE OF HER
REALLY THINK SOMEONE LIKE THAT WOULD BE FIXATED ON THEIR PAST RIGHT NOW?
SOMETHING
FROM SUMMER TILL FALL

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T SMOKED OPIUM SINCE YESTERDAY
I WON'T RUN AWAY EVEN IF I DON'T SMOKE
WE CAN'T MAKE THAT

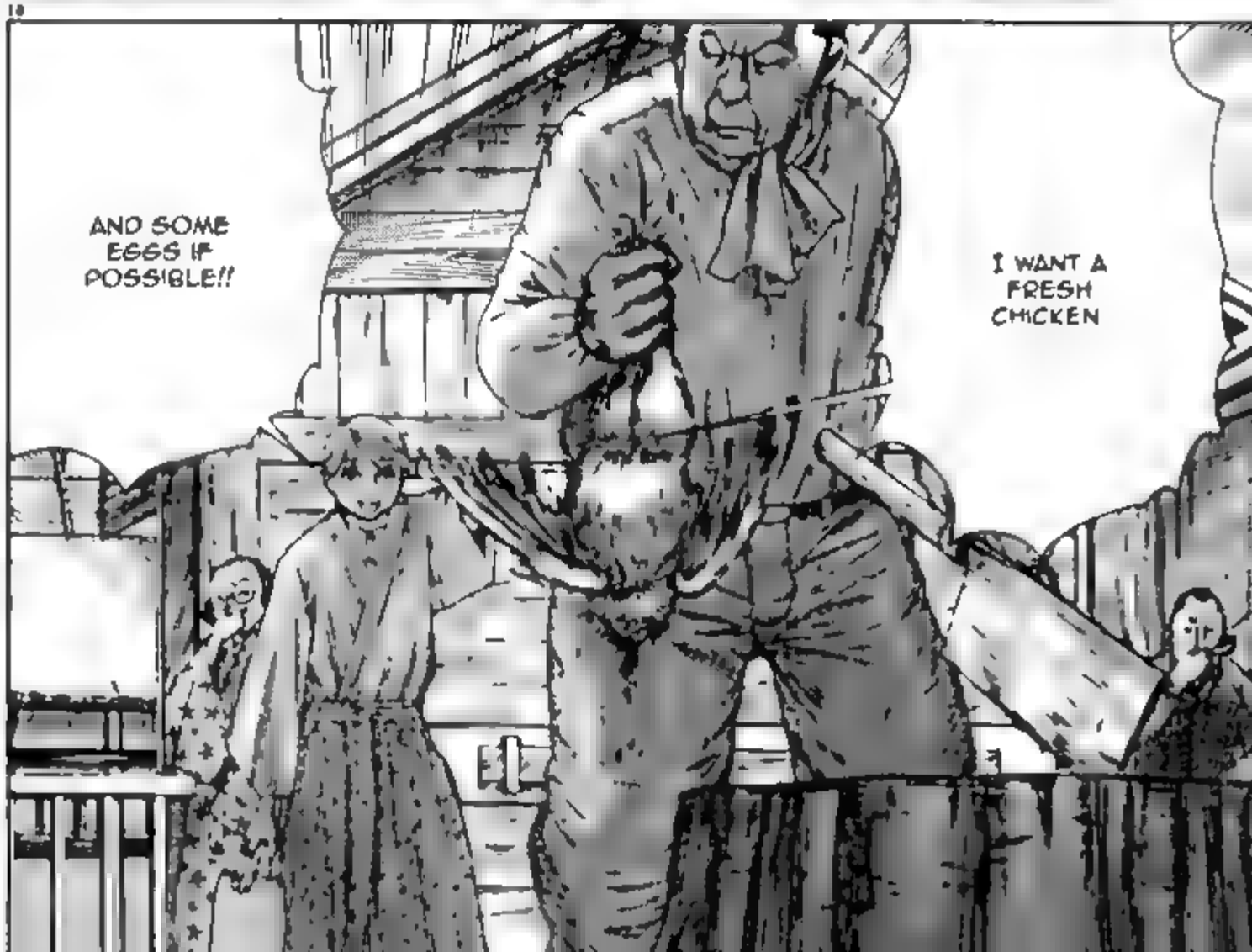
IF KUME-SAN WILL SMOKE, THEN SO WILL I.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SMOKE YET
IT WOULD BE AWFUL IF ONLY WE HAD TO SMOKE
KUME-SAN MIGHT TRY TO RUN AWAY FROM THIS VILLAGE
DON'T YOU THINK SO EV-ERYONE?
NEW-SENSE
WHERE COULD I GO??
YOU SMOKED A LOT WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, DID YOU NOT?
IF YOU HAVE A SMOKE, YOU'LL FEEL AS GOOD AS YOU DID BACK THEN
KUME-SAN
YOU SHOULD SMOKE

I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF MY BODY.
I'M NOT AT AN AGE WHERE I COULD AFFORD TO DO THAT
YOU'LL HAVE TO DIE EITHER WAY, RIGHT?
ONCE TAIKO'S CHILD IS BORN,
SO WHAT'S THE POINT OF TAKING CARE OF YOUR BODY?
I REFUSE.

HAVE A SMOKE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, EVERYONE?
ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T PLANNING ON RUNNING AWAY?

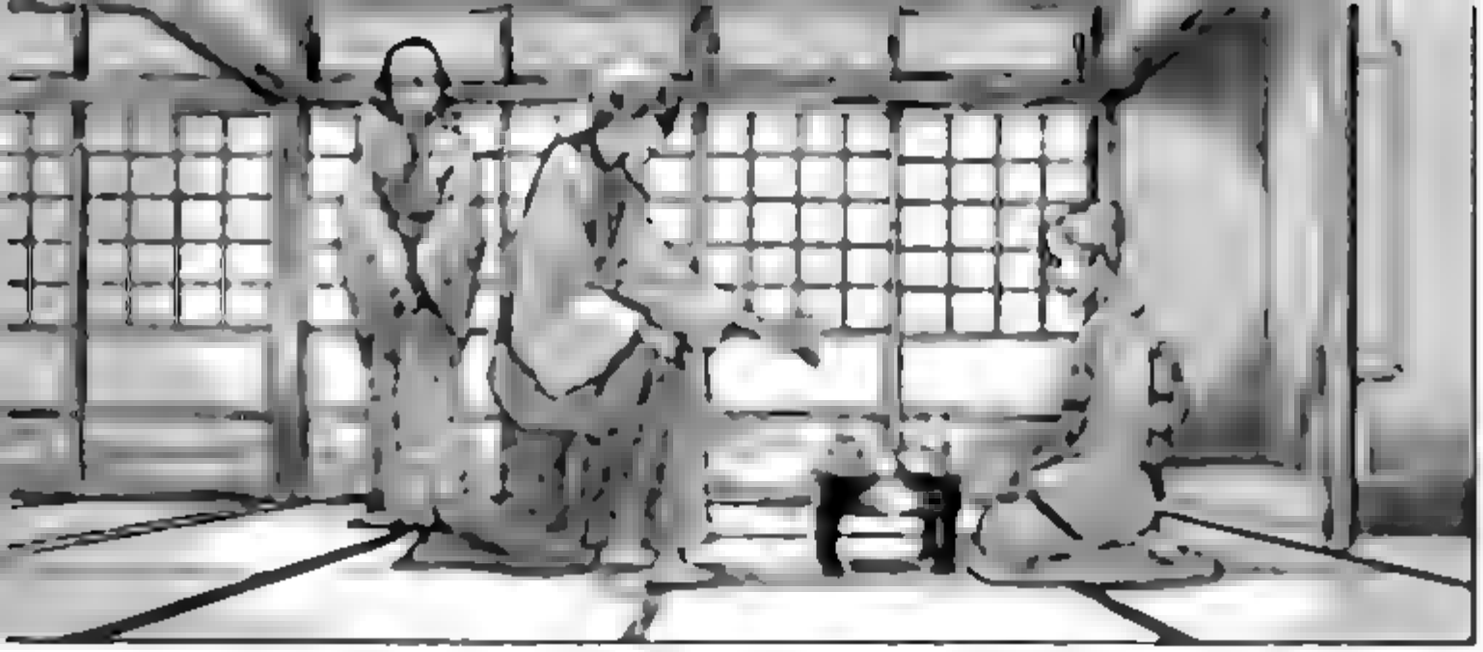
IF IT'S SAKE, I CAN DRINK WITH YOU ALL NIGHT LONG
SAY KUME-SAN, HOW ABOUT A DRINKING PARTY TILL MORNING!?
DON'T GET CUCKY!!
DO WHAT YOU WANT
.....
.....?

GOOD DAY!
SHE DOESN'T DRINK NEITHER ALCOHOL NOR TEA.
LAST NIGHT I TOOK A PEEK AT WHAT THAT OLD HAG DRANK
THAT'S RIGHT!
YES, ONE OR TWO WILL DO
WHAT? A CARROT?
FOOD
WHAT WILL YOU USE THEM FOR?


AND SOME EGGS IF POSSIBLE!!
I WANT A FRESH CHICKEN

I WANT TO BECOME STRONGER BY EATING LIVER!!
I'LL PROPERLY SMOKE OPIUM STARTING
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
AND STATUE...

IT ALWAYS GETS STUCK THIS TIME OF THE YEAR!!



IF YOU DON'T LIKE ALCOHOL,
IT'S TO EX-
PRESS OUR
GRATITUDE
FOR TAKING

KUME-SAN
THERE'S NOTHING YOU COULD EAT, IS THERE?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THERE ARE CARROTS, EGGS, LIVER...
IS THAT TRUE?

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.
AND NEITHER WOULD ANY OF THE VILLAGERS
HOW-EVER,
I ALREADY EXPERIENCED THIS ONCE,
SO THERE'S NO MIS-TAKING IT...
YOU'RE DE-
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE MOTIVE YOU WERE MISSING

ALL IN
CAFFEINE.
AND EVEN VITAMIN A.
AND TO PROTECT
THE CHILD SHE IS CARRYING.

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CHAPTER 34 - REASONING BULLSHIT

PREGNANT?
.....
SO, OR SO I'VE HEARD.
.....
HOW OLD IS SHE?
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
IT MUST'VE COMPLETELY MESSED WITH YOUR HEAD.
YOU SMOKED OPIUM WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER,
THE LAST SEED OF MY DECEASED HUSBAND IS NOW INSIDE MY BELLY.
I'M NOT MISTAKEN.
HEHE
.....

NOW THEN, WHOM DOES THE HAMMER BELONG TO?
THE MURDERER THOUGHT THAT LEAVING JUST THE BODY INSIDE A LOCKED ROOM WOULD SEEM TOO UNNATURAL, SO THEY LEFT A HAMMER THERE THAT'S WHAT WE'VE DEDUCTED SO FAR
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I KILLED MANJI?
...DON'T BE STUPID.
AND THE GROUND AROUND MANJI'S WORKPLACE WAS TOO SOFT TO APPROACH ON THAT NIGHT BECAUSE OF THE STORM...
THERE'S NO WAY THE MURDERER STOLE IT FROM ANOTHER HOUSE
DOESN'T IT?
THE HAMMER BELONGS TO THIS HOUSE.

THEY WILL SURELY BELIEVE YOU ARE THE CULPRIT
BECAUSE YOU HAD A GOOD MOTIVE.
BUT DON'T YOU THINK THIS WILL BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE VILLAGERS?
IT'S ALL JUST CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, OF COURSE.

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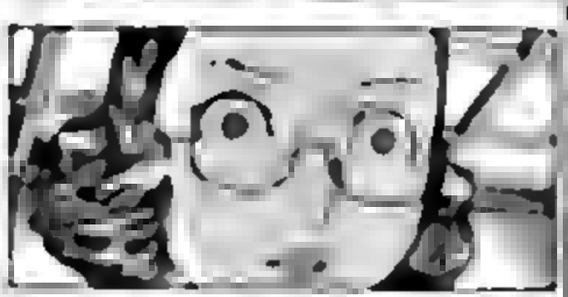
ALL YOUR ACCUSATIONS ARE MEANINGLESS, DON'T YOU THINK?
AS LONG AS YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN THAT,
IF I REALLY AM THE MURDERER,
THEN HOW DID I MANAGE TO GET OUT OF THE LOCKED ROOM?
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY!!
.....
THERE WAS A CRACK IN THE WALL!!
YOU HAVEN'T LEFT THE ROOM!!
AM I RIGHT!?
THEN THE WALL SWELLED WITH WATER AND THE CRACK DISAPPEARED!!
AND THEN THREW THE HAMMER INSIDE!!
YOU STABBED MANJI-KUN THROUGH THAT CRACK,

WASN'T IT SUICIDE AFTER ALL? HAHAHA
EVEN IF HE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN MURDERED, HE WOULD'VE EVENTUALLY DIED FROM DROWNING!
...HUH?
THEN HOW DID MANJI PLAN ON GETTING OUT OF THERE?
.....!!

ACTUALLY,
YOU MIGHT NOT BE COMPLETELY

THE WOOD ABSORBED THE WATER



THE STOPPER

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THAT MUST BE IT
IT WAS PROBABLY THE SAME WITH KIYOMORI'S STATUE.
IT FINALLY ALL MAKES SENSE.
THERE'S NO WAY WOOD WOULD EXPAND BY SEVERAL CENTIMETERS!
IF IT WERE NORMAL WOOD THAT WOULD INDEED BE THE CASE
HOWEVER, THAT STOPPER WAS MADE FROM SPECIAL WOOD WHICH MANJI PROCESSED.
SPECIAL WOOD?
THAT'S RIGHT.
TIMBER USUALLY DRIES FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE IT'S USED.
THAT'S BECAUSE FRESH WOOD SOAKED IN WATER IS SURPRISINGLY SOFT
I KNOW THAT, BUT...
REALLY?
IF YOU PRESSED IT WITH A VICE,
HOW MANY CENTIMETERS WOULD IT SHRINK BY?
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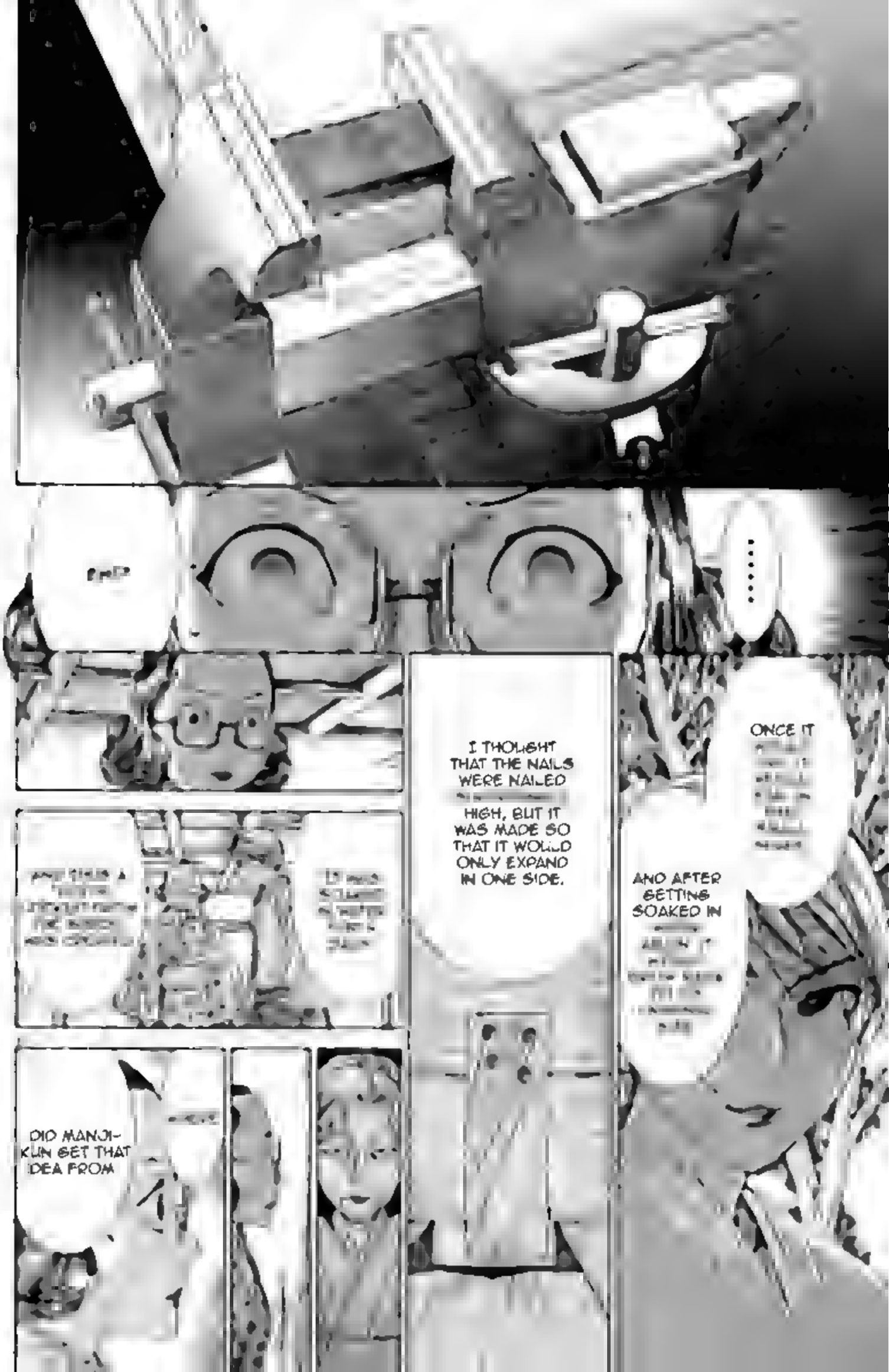
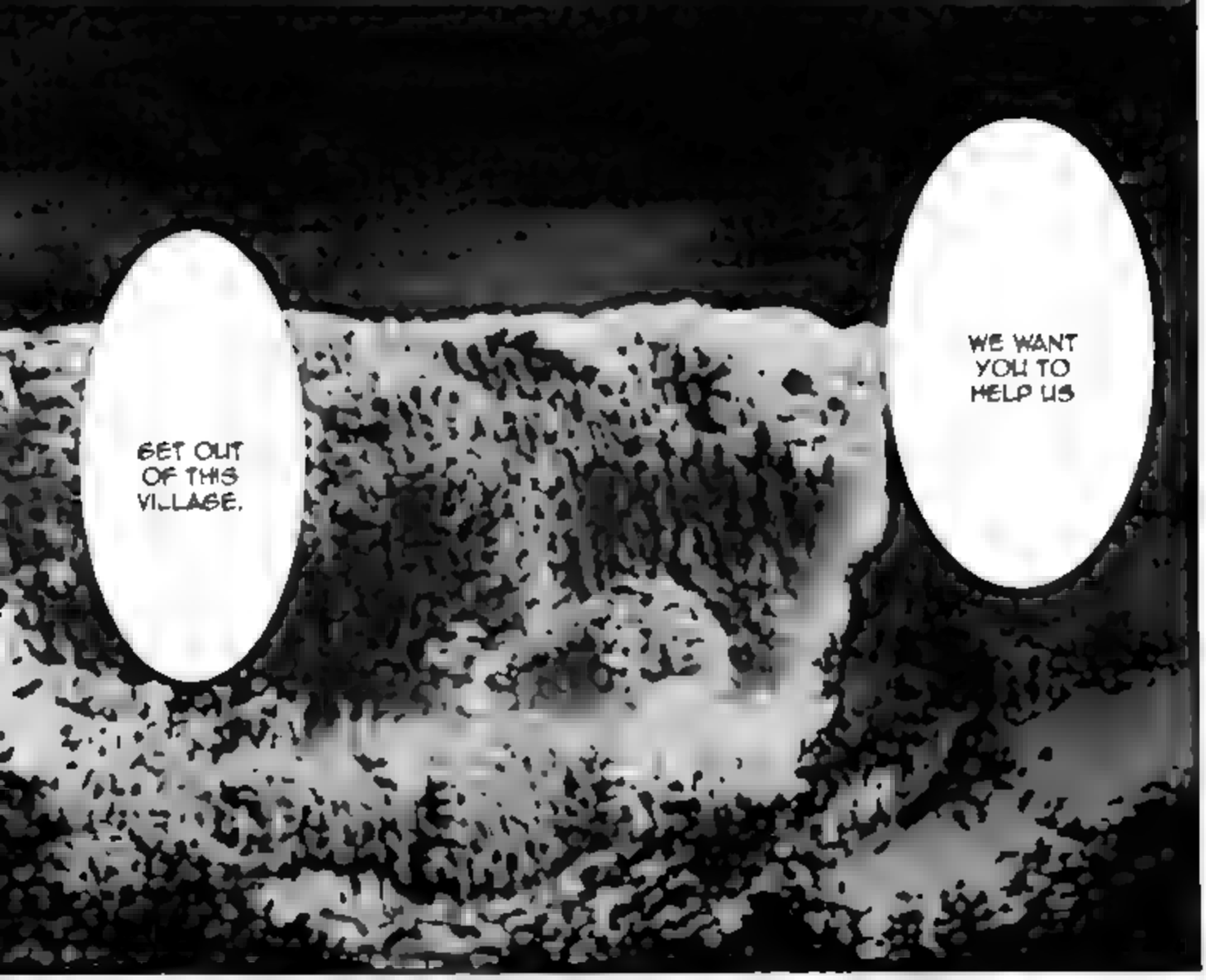

EH!?
.....
I THOUGHT THAT THE NAILS WERE NAILED
HIGH, BUT IT WAS MADE SO THAT IT WOULD ONLY EXPAND IN ONE SIDE.
ONCE IT
AND AFTER GETTING SOAKED IN
DID MANJI-KUN GET THAT IDEA FROM

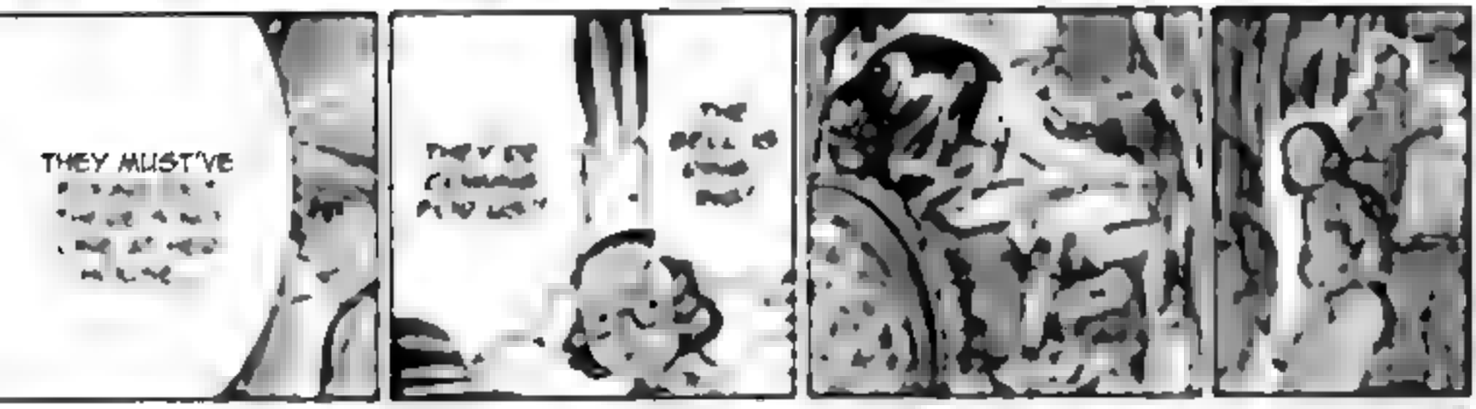
THE STATUE CHANGED ITS APPEARANCE
BUT ON A WINDY RAINY DAY WHEN IT GOT WET,
IT GOT MADE FROM THE WOOD OF THE HOUSES THAT GOT RUINED BY THE LANDSLIDE,
PROBABLY FROM KIYO-AKI'S STATUE
AND AT THE TIME IT WAS BROUGHT TO THE VILLAGE, IT WAS PROBABLY ALREADY COMPLETELY DRIED
HE PROBABLY STUMBLED UPON THIS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE WOOD.
AND WHEN MANJI-KUN WAS INVESTIGATING THE SECRET,

RUN THIS BY THE VILLAGERS?
SHOULD WE
AND CHANGE ITS FACIAL EXPRESSION AS IF IT WERE A WORK OF A CURSE.
AND WHEN HE CREATED THE LOCKED ROOM, HE NAILED THE STATUE DOWN TO THE FLOOR SO THAT IT WOULD GET SOAKED IN A LOT OF WATER,

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND
IF THE TWO OF YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO THIS VILLAGE,
MANJI-KUN WOULDN'T HAVE TO DIE
THE ONLY ONE.
WHOM I COULD'VE KILLED
WAS MANJI
WITHOUT RAISING ANY SUSPICIONS,

YOU MUST ALREADY KNOW THIS,
BUT WE WON'T GAIN ANYTHING BY TURNING YOU IN TO THE VILLAGERS.
THAT'S WHY WE WANT TO MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU


GET OUT OF THIS VILLAGE.
WE WANT YOU TO HELP US

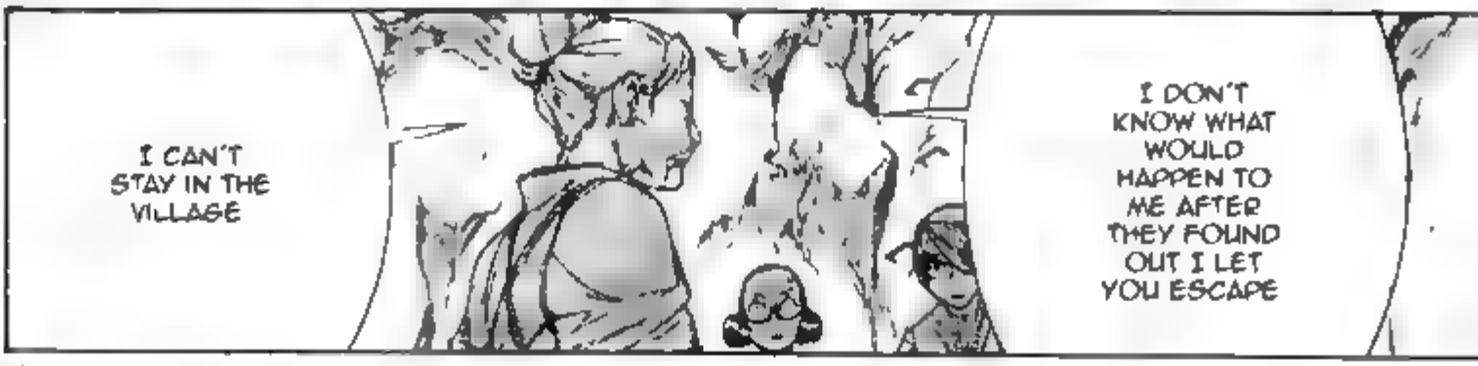

THEY MUST'VE

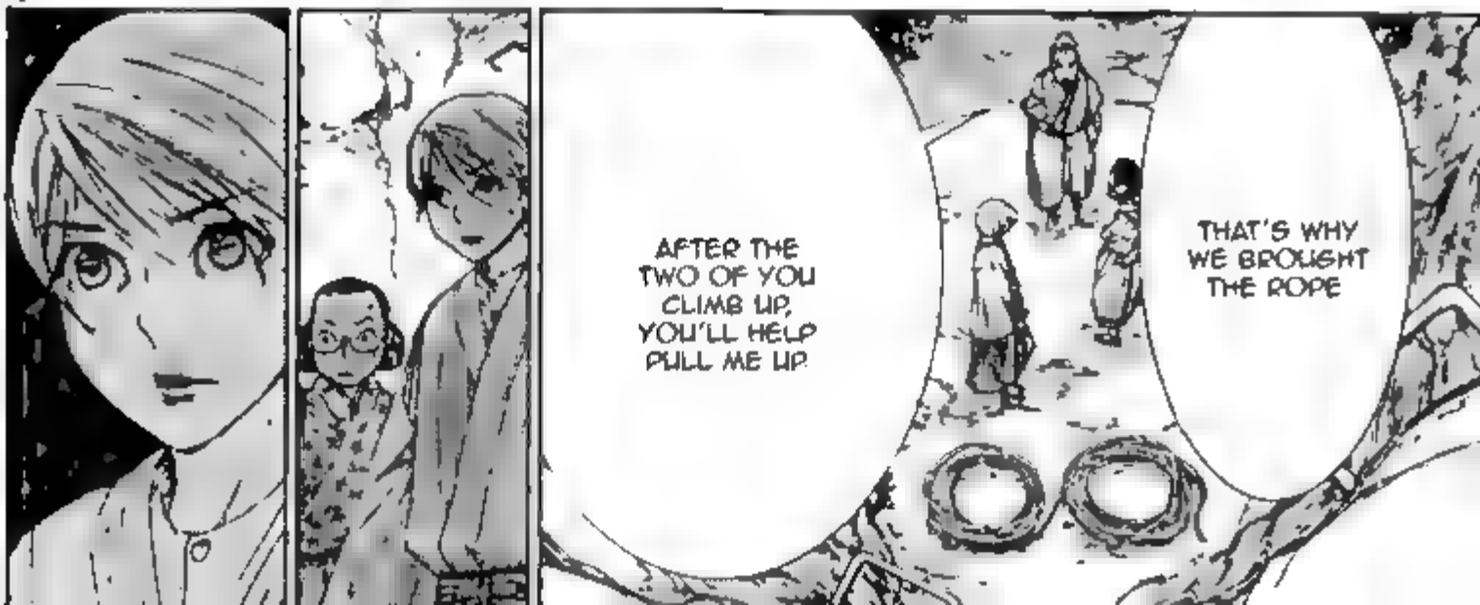
BECAUSE EVERYONE KNEW THAT MANJI OCCASIONALLY SNUCK OUT OF THE VILLAGE USING THIS PATH
ONCE THEY NOTICE WE DIDN'T GO THROUGH THE

IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN CLIMB UP HERE.

I'M ALSO LEAVING
NOT JUST THE TWO OF YOU.

IT'S ONLY NORMAL


I CAN'T STAY IN THE VILLAGE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME AFTER THEY FOUND OUT I LET YOU ESCAPE


AFTER THE TWO OF YOU CLIMB UP, YOU'LL HELP PULL ME UP.
THAT'S WHY WE BROUGHT THE ROPE

ARE YOU SERIOUS?
TETSUO,
FINE.
WE'LL HELP YOU
SHE'S A MURDERER.
SHE LOOKED AFTER YOU A LOT THINKING YOU WERE PREGNANT
IT'S NOT THE BABY'S FAULT.

...IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
SO,
IT'S A MURDER THAT HAPPENED IN THAT VILLAGE
OR DO YOU
INSIST ON BEING THE JUDGE HERE?
BESIDES, PREGNANCY AT HER AGE CAN BE DANGEROUS.
IF WE DON'T GET HER TO A HOSPITAL, SHE WON'T STAND A CHANCE

YOU
WILL NEVER GIVE BIRTH TO A CHILD, THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THINKING THIS WAY.
IF I
.....
WE SHOULD LET THE VILLAGERS JUDGE HER,
THAT'S THE LEAST WE COULD DO FOR MANJI-KUN, DON'T YOU THINK?

AND WOULD SEE THIS AS MY LAST CHANCE OF HAVING A BABY.
WOULD ONE DAY BE AS OLD AS HER AND PREGNANT,

BUT YOU'RE A GUY..
.....
I WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BECOME A MONSTER

YOU HAD THOUGHTS
DO SOMETHING MUCH WORSE THAN BECOMING A DEMON, THEN...

PLEASE NOT DESPISE ME?

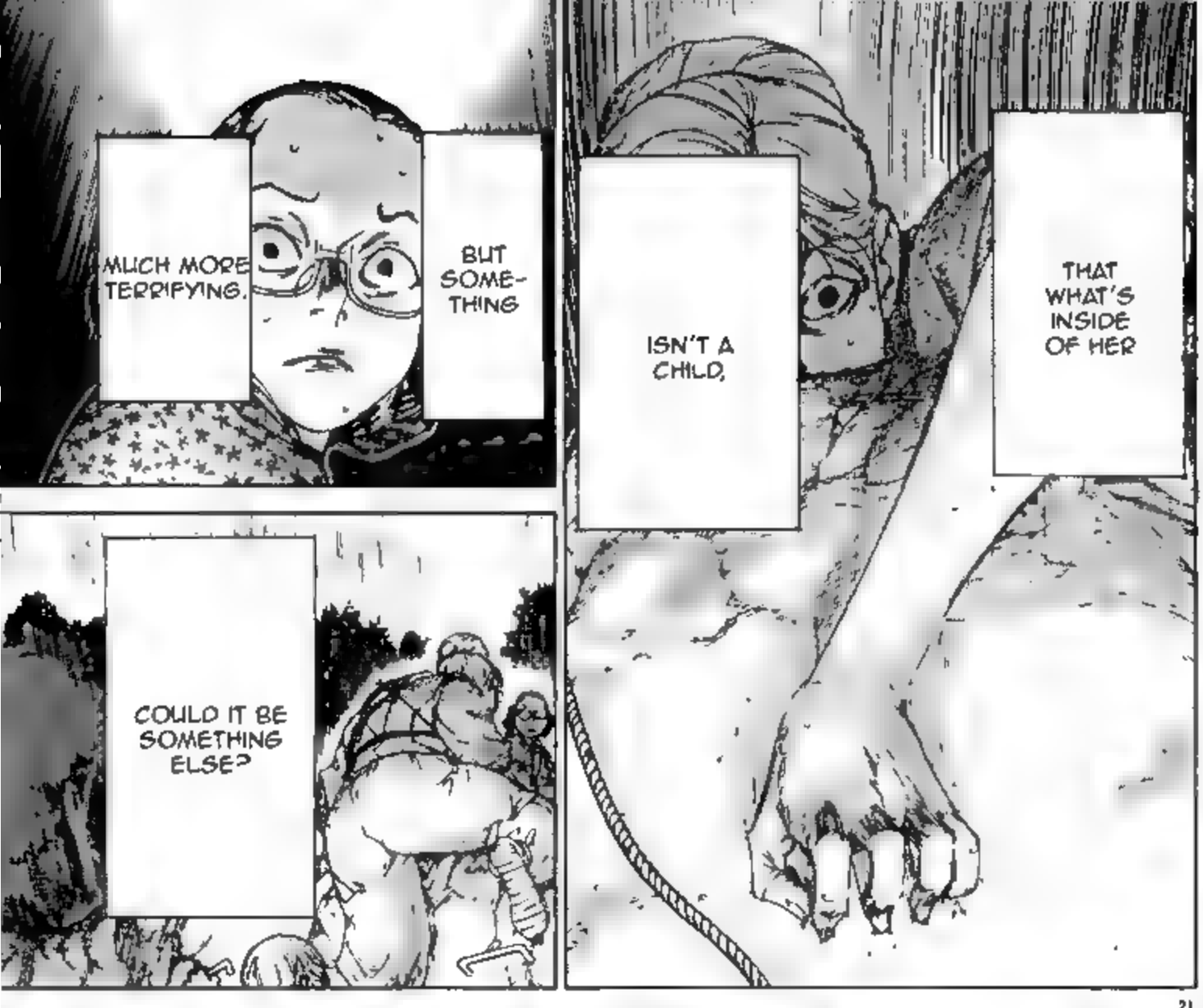
I'LL GO
SO YOU
TAKE CARE
OF THE
AS I THOUGHT,
OF OBSTACLES,
SO SHE WON'T BE
ABLE TO CLIMB UP

COMING
CLOSER!

LUCKY SCANS

SHE SEEMS SO MUCH YOUNGER...

JUST A BIT FURTHER.


MUCH MORE TERRIFYING.
BUT SOME-THING
ISN'T A CHILD,
THAT WHAT'S INSIDE OF HER
COULD IT BE SOMETHING ELSE?

I FINALLY
.....

SHOOT!
YOU CAN KILL THEM!!

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CHAPTER 35
THE ONE THAT TURNED BACK

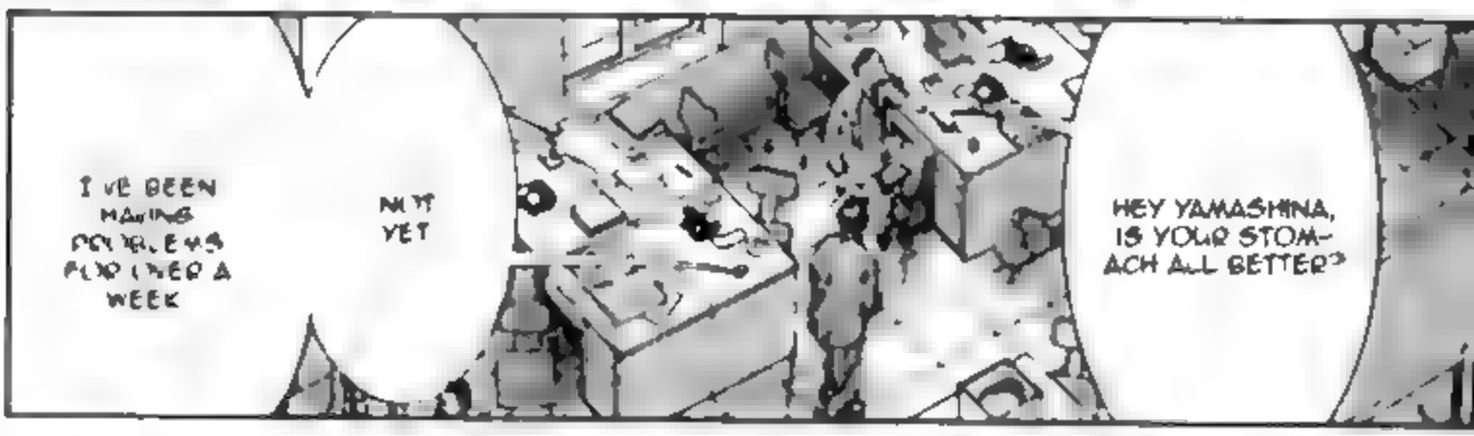
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BROTHER?
.....?
BUT NO ONE BROUGHT IT
MANJI'S BOW
DID YOU GET HIGH AGAIN?
SOMEONE FIRED WITH MANJI'S BOW!
DIDN'T YOU SEE?
GOOD JOB
WHO FIRED THAT SHOT?
ONE GOT SHOT!
.....
EH?
...AN ARROW? ...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
TET-SUO
ARE YOU ALRIGHT!? WE NEED TO PULL THE ARROW OUT!!
KUME-SAN!

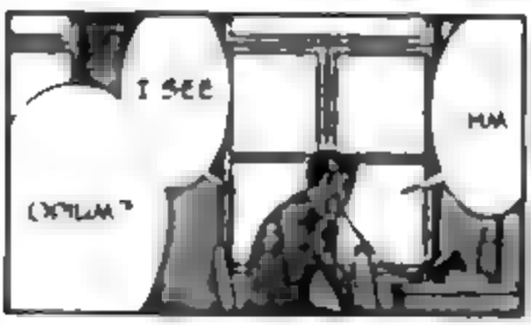
YOU MUSTN'T

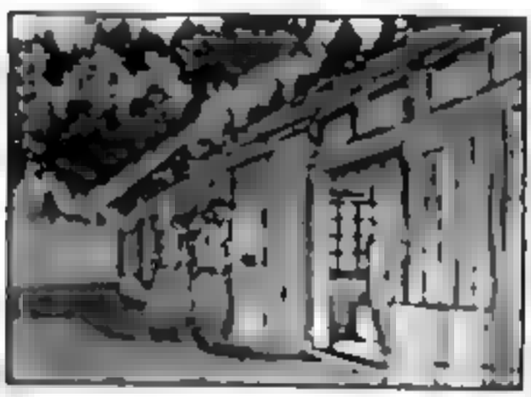
I KILLED

HE COULDN'T ALLOW KUME-SAN TO BECOME A MOTHER.
CAUSE SHE WANTED TO BE A MOTHER
CHANGE HER BACK FROM DEMON TO HUMAN

LET'S RUN INTO THE FOREST BEFORE THEY CATCH UP TO US.
WE CAN CALL THE COPS AND SEND THEM TO THE VILLAGE BEFORE THE VILLAGERS DO ANYTHING TO KUME-SAN.
TETSUO


I'VE BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS FOR OVER A WEEK
NOT YET
HEY YAMASHINA, IS YOUR STOMACH ALL BETTER?


I SEE
HM
(SIGH)



YAMASHINA SPEAKING

BUT THE INSPECTOR JUST GAVE ME SOME MEDICINE
YAMASHINA'S HOME
COMING!

YES THAT'S RIGHT

THANK YOU
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE SITUATION, SO DON'T WORRY
I GOT THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE VILLAGE
UNDER-STOOD.
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD HURRY AND SEND SOME COPS TO THAT VILLAGE"
I ALSO GOT SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION
AND
WHAT?
[THE GRAY MAZE] YOU SAY...
.....
THERE WAS A DESCRIPTION OF A MAZE THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THE ONE UNDERNEATH THE GHOST TOWER
IN A THE NOVEL CALLED [THE GRAY MAZE],
WE'RE THINKING OF GOING TO SEE THE AUTHOR
LIVE-SCANS

HE MIGHT EVEN BE
[SHIBANMUSHI] HIMSELF
THE AUTHOR MUST KNOW SOMETHING.
SHIBANMUSHI
ALL THIS SEEM AS RIKA'S DOING
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE

BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE,
TETSUO SAID THAT [SHIBAMUSHI] IS THE
.....
SHE CONFESSED TO KILLING HER STEPMOTHER IN FRONT OF SEVERAL EYEWITNESSES
AND MAKE SURE YOU CONTACT ME
AM I STILL NOT TRUSTWORTHY ENOUGH?

..AND....
...OR SO IT SEEMS.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I JUST RECEIVED SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION.
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING WEIRD!
NO WAY.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN SECRETLY WORKING ON SOMETHING LATELY
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS?
THIS IS IT
THE AUTHOR'S THE CULPRIT!
DOES HE LIVE IN TOKYO?
I'LL LEAVE RIGHT AWAY!
INSPECTOR! I'M COMING WITH YOU!
PLEASE!!
I WANT TO BE THERE,WHEN YOU, THE INCREDIBLE INSPECTOR J.N-BABLE, CRACK THIS CASE!!
RIGHT.. YOU CAN COME
YOU WEREN'T TAKING ANY HORMONES WERE YOU?
WHEN WE WERE IN THAT VILLAGE,
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ACTING WEIRD, BUT...

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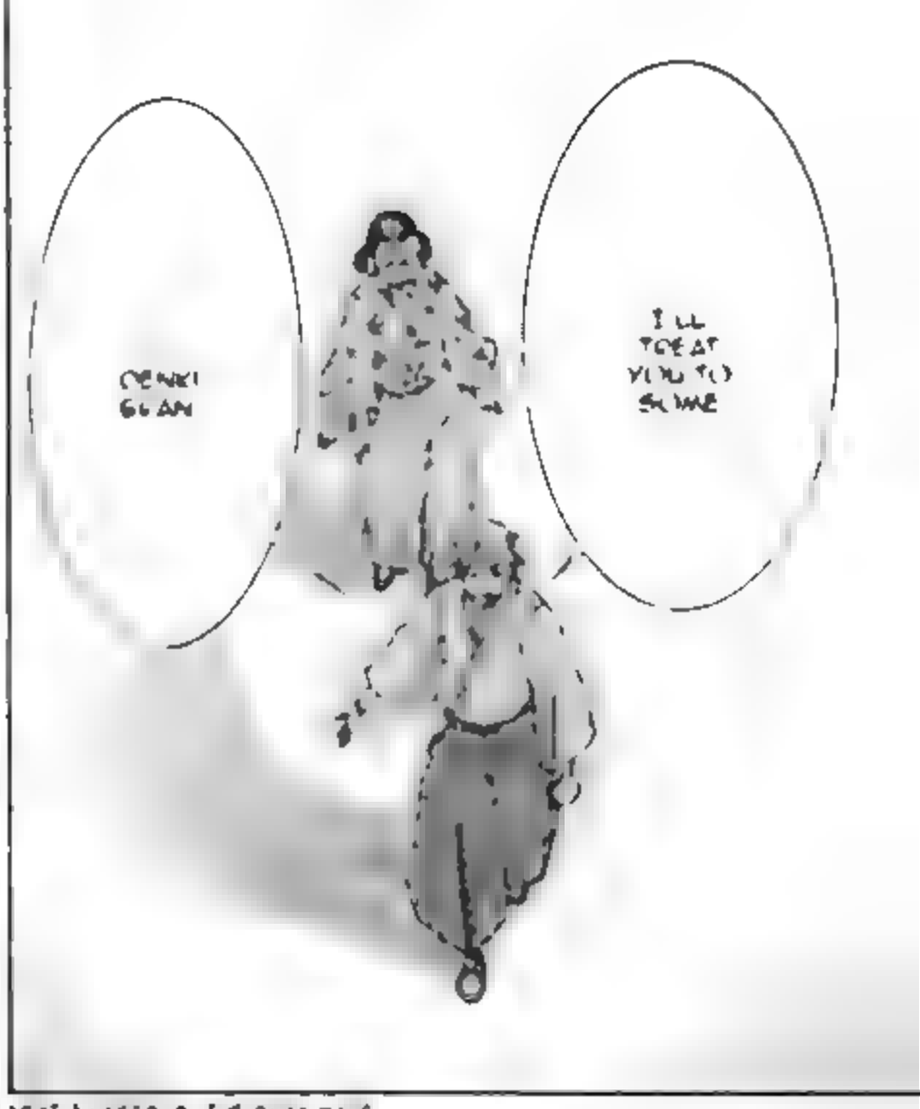
WE DON'T HAVE NEARLY ENOUGH MONEY
THEY'RE QUITE EXPENSIVE
IT'S NO USE
WE SHOULD START BY LOOKING FOR A DOCTOR WHO CAN SELL US SOME.
IF I TRY I CAN STILL SOUND LIKE A GUY... SEE? THIS IS ALRIGHT?
THERE'S STILL SOME TIME LEFT BEFORE THEY COMPLETELY WEAR US
I WONDER WHY?
.....
.....
ALRIGHT
IF YOU TALK WITH A DIFFERENT VOICE WHEN WE'RE ALONE
I WANT TO HEAR IT

THANK YOU.
I WANT TO HEAR THAT BEAUTIFUL, SWEET VOICE OF YOURS
18
ONE MORE TIME
AND BE ESCORTED BY YOU TO THE FLOURISHING TOKYO
I WANT TO GET SOME CLOTHES THAT LOOK CUTER THAN THIS BORING THING.
WE CAN AT LEAST BUY SOME NEW CLOTHES, RIGHT?

THIS TIME LET'S GO AS A DAUGHTER OF A HIGH CLASS FAMILY AND A STUDENT
THERE'S THIS CABLE CAR NEAR SHIBUYA.
IT'S CALLED HIBARIGO AND IT RUNS BETWEEN TWO BUILDINGS, I'D REALLY LIKE TO RIDE IT!
ISN'T IT LIKE ONE OF KOMATSUZAKI SHIGERU'S FUTURISTIC ILLUSTRA-TIONS?
THE HIBARIGO.

NO LONGER EXISTS
YOU KEEP READING OLD MAGAZINES SO YOUR INFORMATION IS OUTDATED, TAIKO-CHAN
EH, IS THAT SO.
I DO, HOW-EVER,
KNOW A COUPLE OF THINGS ABOUT ASAKUSA.
CIGARETTES


GENKI
GLAN
I'LL
TREAT
YOU TO
SOME

FLOP

I FINISHED
PACKING
MY THINGS.
FATHER

ARE WE SUDDENLY GOING TO TOKYO?
IT'S NOT EVEN AN OFFICIAL BUSINESS TRIP...
IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT THERE IS A
BE IMPORTANT,
SATOKO

[YUUREITOU] VOLUME 4 - END -

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